

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 COME-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5485

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMCONSUL BARCELONA

UNCLAS MADRID 3245

COPENHAGEN FOR FISHERY ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIS, MX, SP

SUBJECT: MEXICO REOPENS COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN SPAIN

1. JOSE FRANCISCO VILLARREAL, UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT MADRID'S BARAJAS AIRPORT APRIL 20 WAS QUOTED IN THE MADRID AS STATING: "THE OBJECT OF MY ARRIVAL IN SPAIN IS TO INCREASE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES." VILLARREAL IS THE FIRST MEXICAN OFFICIAL COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO BE LOCATED IN SPAIN SINCE HIS PREDECESSOR LEFT SPAIN LATE LAST SEPTEMBER DUE TO THE EVENTS OF THAT TIME, I.E. SPAIN'S EXECUTION OF THE 5 TERRORISTS WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF ASSASSINATING SPANISH POLICEMEN AND THE LEADING ROLE IN CONDEMNING SPAIN,, INCLUDING IN THE UNITED NATIONS, TAKEN BY MEXICO'S PRESIDENT.

2. VILLARREAL POINTED OUT THAT MEXICO'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE BALANCE HAS SHOWN AN INCREASING DEFICIT IN RECENT YEARS, THOUGH THE LEVEL DID IMPROVE DURING 1975 DUE TO MEXICAN EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM. HE ADDED THAT, WHILE MEXICO'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION WAS ACCEPTABLE DUE TO THE INFLOW OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT CAPITAL AND MEXICO'S OBTENTION OF LONG-TERM LOANS, MEXICO'S DEFICIT IN ITS CURRENT ACCOUNT IS QUITE SERIOUS AND HAS WORSENERED YEAR AFTER YEAR.

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3. VILLARREAL POINTED TO THE INCREASING TRADE DEFICIT MEXICO HAS BEEN RUNNING UP WITH SPAIN AND SAID HIS COUNTRY WAS INTERESTED IN INCREASING EXPORTS TO SPAIN OF SHRIMP, FISH-PRODUCTS, BOOKS, CHICK-BEANS, COTTON AND COFFEE.

4. COMMENT: SINCE THE DEATH OF FRANCO AND THE COMING TO POWER OF KING JUAN CARLOS, THERE HAVE BEEN CONTNUING REPORTS THAT MEXICO AND SPAIN MAY RENEW LONG BROKEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. VILLARREAL, HOWEVER, AT HIS AIRPORT ARRIVAL IN MADRID, REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THIS POSSIBILITY SAYING IT WAS OUTSIDE HIS COMPETENCE.

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